AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news summaries and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the individual's knowledge, experience, and statistics, other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

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WHOLE No. 1850 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 36, NO. 39

REGISTER! VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The twelfth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

Labor and Russia

By JOSEPH A. PADWAY
Chief Counsel for the AFL

When a member of the Cabinet of the United States is forced to resign because of his sharp differences with the foreign policy of our Government toward Russia, the American people must sit up and take notice.

I think everyone will agree that Secretary Wallace's resignation will promote greater unity of thought and action at the top level of our Government. But the question now is to what extent are Mr. Wallace's views shared by the rank and file of American citizens.

I propose to answer that question today so far as labor is concerned.

First, I can say without hesitation that the 7 million members of the American Federation of Labor stand solidly united in support of a firm policy toward Soviet Russia. They are shocked by Russia's aggressive tactics since the war ended. They are disillusioned by Russia's failure to cooperate with the United States and Great Britain for the establishment of enduring world peace based upon justice.

Communism offers no attraction to the members of the American Federation of Labor.

I think it is highly significant that although Communism is supposed to be based upon Socialism, the most bitter enemies of the Communist experiment to be found in this country and in Great Britain are the Socialists themselves.

New Dealism cannot be denied that the Communists in this country have gained headway, and even control in some labor groups not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It is important that the public should understand that the conflict between the AFL and the CIO stems largely from this source. As the President of the Federation said in a public address a few days ago, we can no more reconcile the Americanism of the AFL with the Communism that motivates certain CIO affiliates "than you can reconcile the Knights of Columbus with the Ku Klux Klan."

I think the American people are relieved by the fact that Secretary of Commerce Wallace has resigned.

This feeling of relief will be strengthened by the assurance that the American Federation of Labor, the strongest and most representative labor organization in the nation, stands as an impregnable barrier, resisting and preventing any attempt by the Communists to take over control in America by way of the trade union movement.

The 1946 Campaign

By LEWIS G. HINES
AFL Legislative Representative

The voting records of the members of Congress seeking reelection this year are now being distributed by the American Federation of Labor to the voters back home.

These records of roll-call votes in Congress on key issues tell a clear-cut story. We believe the workers of this country will be glad to have this information to help them make up their minds how to cast their ballots.

The Congressional elections this year are of tremendous importance to labor. Powerful forces are operating to attack and destroy labor in the next Congress many of the freedoms which American workers now enjoy.

Frankly, the American Federation of Labor seeks to defeat members of Congress who favor this anti-labor attack and to elect Senators and Congressmen who are sympathetic to labor's views and program. That goes, regardless of the political party to which the candidates are identified. The traditional non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor calls for the election of labor's friends and the defeat of its enemies, no matter what party label they bear.

This policy is particularly important this year in view of the confused situation existing within both major political parties. The Democratic Party is spinning reactionary candidates in all sorts of directions in an effort to keep Republican Party is doing the same thing. It is difficult, if not well-nigh impossible, for the average citizen to judge for what he is voting when he merely endorses a party label.

Therefore, we feel we are rendering a valuable service not only to labor, but to the entire Nation, by distributing the voting records of candidates for Congress on the big domestic issues.

If you would like to know how your Senator and Congressman voted on the continuation of OPA, on the Full Employment Bill, on Housing legislation, on the Case Anti-Labor Bill, on higher pay for Government employes, on legislation to draft labor, on anti-poll-tax legislation and on many other important measures, consult the records issued by the American Federation of Labor. If you do this you will know what the candidate you select stands for, instead of having to choose blindly.

Wall Street Jitters

By BORIS SHISHKIN
AFL Economist

This week the stock market took another big dip. Everywhere people were wondering and arguing about the cause. Many people who saw it every turn were prompt to ask—Is this it? Does the stock market break signal the approach of a postwar depression?

The hard-and-fast rule—buy when trade is stocks not for investment, but just to make some easy money in the market—may get hurt by an adjustment in stock market prices of the kind that is now taking place. But it does not hurt the country.

As a matter of fact the current stock market decline is a healthy thing. It is healthy for two reasons. First because it is taking some air out of stock market inflation. Prices of almost everything have been steadily rising all along. But stock-market prices, unbridled and unchecked, have been boosted out of all proportion. The current adjustment will bring stock prices in closer relation to their real worth.

Another reason why the decline is healthy is that it will sober up the speculators. People who gamble their savings in the stock market have no business doing it. Most of them are just plain suckers. They know little about the market and less about the business. This stock break should teach them—if they can be taught—that the best place for savings is in Uncle Sam's savings bonds or in a savings account in the bank.

We are in the midst of a period of boom and bust. It is close to the danger point. If it goes much farther, there will be a blow-out which will leave us flat. A number of current developments are spreading inflationary pressures. The worst of these is that a lot of goods new produced in large volume does not reach the public. It is kept in warehouses, waiting for still higher prices.

According to the Department of Commerce, at the end of July eighteen billion dollars worth of goods were stored in the manufacturers' warehouses, four and a half billion dollars' in the hands of wholesalers, and seven and a half billion in retail stores. A large part of this is just plain hoarding. These goods are badly needed by the public and should move out to markets in a steady stream. It instead they are held back and stamped in one fell swoop, the resulting big jam may wreck our whole economy.

Dangerous developments such as this must be promptly dealt with to safeguard the present high levels of production and employment. If we do, we shall be able to keep on a clear and steady course toward lasting prosperity. The first quarter of 1947 promises to provide us with the fullest flow of peacetime production this country has ever known.

Unless these goods are deliberately priced out of the market which is provided by the combined gang of speculators and profiteers, a high level of production and employment can be sustained. To maintain a steady pace of production and a smooth flow of goods into the market without artificial barriers and speculative hazards is the greatest contribution business can make to America's postwar stability.

N. Y. CITY CREATES AGENCY TO AVERT LABOR TROUBLE

New York City—In a move to cut industrial strife to a minimum, Mayor O'Dwyer established a new agency, a Division of Labor Relations, which will seek to avert open breaks and iron out disturbances in key industries. He appointed Gerard Reilly, one of the City's top labor lawyers, to head the new agency. Mr. Reilly is a graduate of Fordham and the Fordham Law School and has specialized in labor relations litigation extending into the U. S. Supreme Court. He is a former city magistrate.

OPA ROLLS BACK PRICES ON MEALS IN RESTAURANTS

Washington, D. C.—Price ceilings on restaurant meals and individual menu items in which meat is the major component were reduced by OPA to the level of the June 30 level.

Since September 9 restaurant ceilings on these items had been "frozen" at prices which were in effect during the week ending August 27. This was the week before the start of retail meat ceilings.

The OPA in its official statement called action a "rollback" of restaurant prices, but it made no estimate of how much the reduction would be.

However, an OPA official told a reporter that "most of the increases we have heard about have been about 10 percent."

Major Industrial Centers Hard Hit By Scarcity of Meat and Other Foods

Washington, D. C.—A long string of meatless days confronted major industrial centers throughout the Nation as Government officials conceded that livestock raisers are not releasing their cattle, hogs and lambs for slaughter.

In New York what meat there was was being sold for the most part on the "under the counter plan" to favored customers. There, 1,000 delicatessen dealers voted to close and urged other stores to do so for an indefinite period because they can't get cold cuts.

Meat was virtually nonexistent in Philadelphia, and hospital dieticians and hotel chefs said meatless menus must be served for some days.

At two Boston hospitals, patients found horse meat on the menu—and many reported they liked it.

In Chicago, the heart of the country's meat industry, the famine hit rock bottom. Practically all reserves were exhausted and no relief was in sight, retailers and stockmen agreed.

(More than 90 percent of all meat in Chicago centers then were rationed and about 15,000 meat industry workmen were laid off.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), called upon the Government to provide more meat for miners, in grounds that they required meat for such strenuous labor.

On the West Coast the meat supply was reported at more than 35 percent of normal and in the Atlanta area the shortage was reported growing more acute.

Grocers in major industrial centers reported a booming demand for poultry, fish, eggs and cheese, as housewives found these items increasingly scarce. Prices of dressed poultry in New York jumped 15 cents within a month.

Meanwhile the Agriculture Department forecast the supply of eggs in 1947 will be lower and the prices will be higher. Production, the report said, will be down 6 to 8 percent because of a reduction in laying flocks.

July Hiring By U.S. Factories Equal to 1943 Rate, BLS Finds

Washington, D. C.—Workers were hired in manufacturing plants in July at as high a rate as in D. C. 1943, when war production was in full swing, and the factories lost fewer than in any corresponding month since 1941, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The employment rate was 78 per 1,000 and reflected increases in both the durable and nondurable units of manufacturing, especially in the steel, automobile and food industries. The June rate was 67 and that of July 1945 was 56.

The July separation rate of 59 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 57 for June. The July 1945 separation rate was 77. The so-called "quit rate," as distinguished from layoffs and other discharges, accounted for the three-quarters of all separations. It was 45 per 1,000 as compared with 46 in June and 52 in July 1945, but was still the lowest for any July since 1942, BLS stated.

The layoff rate of 8 per 1,000 was the lowest of any month since April 1945, and the lowest July figure since 1943.

Women left manufacturing jobs at the rate of 67 per 1,000 in July, as compared with 63 in June. The separation rate for male workers was 54 as compared with 55 the previous month.

391 'Big Six' New York Printers Honored After 50 Years In Union

New York City.—In recognition of their membership in Typographical Union No. 6 for 50 years, 391 men received gold lapel buttons here at a special ceremony honored by the union, commonly referred to as the "Big Six."

The 391 old-timers of the printing trade, one of whom joined the union 76 years ago, received cheers from 1,200 members at the presentation ceremony and praise from Laurence H. Victory, president of the "Big Six," and Lieut. Gov. Joe R. Hanley.

On hand to accept the 50-year emblems were the lone woman, Mrs. Carrie E. Sissons of 276 61st Street, Brooklyn, and 298 of her male colleagues. The others, prevented from attending by illness or old age, will get their gold buttons through the mail.

The union member of longest standing was 96-year-old Leon Bossue Dit Lyonnais, who started setting type when Ulysses S. Grant was in the White House. He sent a letter of regret at his inability to be present. In his absence, the recordholder was Julius Gottlieb of Smithtown Branch, L. I., who has belonged to the union for 70 of his 90 years.

Before the presentation, Mr. Victory placed a wreath at the statue of Horace Greeley, at 53rd Street and Broadway, honoring his memory as the union's first president when it was established as the New York Printers Union in 1850.

As accomplishments of the old-time members, Mr. Victory cited clean and ventilated print shops, the establishment of the Union Printers Home at Colorado Springs, Colo., and the shortening of a 72-hour work week to a maximum of 40 hours.

Mr. Hanley declared that the union was second to none in the United States in its ideal and achievements. He predicted that the next 50 years would be the "most glorious in the history of trade unionism."

Pilots Reject Pay Proposal Presented By Fact Board

Chicago.—Pilots and copilots of the Trans-World Airlines rejected a government fact-finding board's recommendation for raises of pay and tendered they would strike, if necessary, to settle their pay dispute, David L. Behncke, president of the Air Line Pilots' Association (AFL), announced.

Mr. Behncke said the dispute involved salaries for pilots and copilots of T. W. A. Constellation and Skymaster four-engine aircraft on both domestic and international flights.

He said the union had sent a letter to President Truman formally rejecting the board's recommendations and charging the board with making arbitrary recommendations which result in pay reductions ranging as high as 24.7 percent.

The recommended pay, he said, provided for salaries 12.1 percent less than the company had offered for an average flying month.

Mr. Behncke declined to state whether the refusal definitely meant that T. W. A.'s 1,000 pilots would walk out. They had planned a strike originally on May 7, but the stoppage was delayed by appointment of the fact-finding board.

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it, but so far this dispute has been in progress in some form or another for over a year and hasn't even been brought close to settlement by other means," he said.

"If it means strike action as an ultimate means of settling it, it will be a strike brought about, ironically, by the same people who fought for it originally on May 7, but the stoppage was delayed by appointment of the fact-finding board.

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The pilots now receive salaries ranging from $2,760 to $12,500 annually. Mr. Behncke said they are seeking an annual maximum of $15,000 on Constellation and Skymaster routes.

Red Appeasement Rejected by Miners

Pottsville, Pa.—A resolution that the United States scrap the atomic bomb and collaborate with Russia and other countries to establish peace was rejected by the first quadrennial convention of District 9 of the United Mine Workers (AFL).

The delegates acted favorably on the following:

Resolution of the Decontrol Board; that Congress should be called into special session for an effective price bill; fair treatment for practice legislation; an antipoll tax law, and a Federal-State housing program for veterans and miners.

Speaking in the same county where agitation for the 6-hour work day began in 1874, Thomas Kennedy, International Secretary-Treasurer of the UMW, told delegates the era of the "8-hour" day is not far off.

Moreell Resigns Coal Post to Head Construction Firm

Washington, D. C.—Admiral Ben Moreell, administrator of the bituminous coal mines since they were taken over by the Government, announced plans to retire from the Navy and Government service September 30.

Admiral Moreell, who recently inaugurated fresh wage negotiations between the United Mine Workers (AFL) and mine operators, will become president of the Turner Construction Co. of New York City, succeeding J. Archer Turner, new board chairman.

Capt. Collision, a former power engineer for the American Gas & Electric Corp. of New York City, has been deputy to Moreell in handling the coal situation.

Nearly Half of All Munitions for Allies Were Produced By American Labor

Truman Dismisses Wallace; Appoints Harriman to Post

Washington, D. C.—President Truman, stirred by Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace's criticism of American foreign policy at a moment when world peace negotiations were at a most delicate point, ousted him from the Cabinet and in his place named U. S. Ambassador to Russia Averell Harriman.

Informed of the Harriman appointment, AFL President William Green said:

"I know Mr. Harriman. He is a capable man."

Wallace split wide with the administration when, in a speech in Madison Square Garden, he attacked the firm policy followed by Secretary of State Byrnes toward Russia. He warned that a "tough" policy might lead to a new war.

Key administration advisers, including Byrnes and his top consultant in Paris, immediately saw in the Wallace attack a vital weakening in America's influence to compel a just peace. Their views were conveyed to the President. Wallace's promise to remain silent until after the peace conference was held insufficient and he demanded for his resignation followed.

Resentful of Wallace, a political ally of the CIO, left the left-wing element stripped of their key spokesman in the Government.

Harriman, a vigorous New Dealer from the start of the Roosevelt administration, was deputy administrator of NRA, occupied other Government posts and served as Ambassador to the Soviet Union. He is a multimillionaire and director of a number of corporations, chief of which is the Union Pacific Railroad.

Despite his ouster by Mr. Truman and the President's repudiation of his views on foreign policy, Wallace is reported preparing to embark on a broad speaking tour to press these views on the country.

Bishop Urges Labor to Oust Reds From American Unions

Philadelphia.—A fervent appeal to all Christian labor union men to crusade upon Communists who have infiltrated their ranks into the organized labor movement was made by Most Rev. Bartholomew J. Eustace, head of the Camden Roman Catholic Diocese, at a rally of 5,000 men and boys at the first postwar session of Camden and Gloucester counties.

"They can be no peace in the world of labor or in the world at large until atheistic Communism is defeated," he said.

"If Christian union men will attend their union meetings, Communism will be undone. A dozen Christian men with good Christian consciences turn the labor unions into the right direction."

He then warned his listeners they may not cooperate with Communism, "or they will be betrayed."

"Communism is wrong in the same way that murder, stealing and lying are wrong," he said. "It is evident that the Russian government does not respect the last decline clause. We extend the open hand of friendship, but the clenched fist would not take it friendly in greeting.

"A nation is only at peace when it is cooperating with God. When a nation expels God from its councils that nation is at war with itself."

Principal lay speaker was Common Pleas Judge Gerald F. Flood, of Philadelphia. Referring to the recent national convention of the CIO's United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, which ousted 10 officers of "not loyal to the democratic way of life" who tried to get rid of Communist control,

"They met with defeat," Flood said, "but they were not crushed, because they succeeded in waking their fellow members to the dangers of Communism."

Meanwhile, Bishop John F. Noll, of Fort Wayne, Ind., episcopal chairman of the National Council of Catholic Men, urged 1,000 delegates to the council's 23rd biennial convention in Kansas City, Mo., to rally their 4,000,000 members for militant action in trades union and other fields to combat Communist activities.

Bishop Noll estimated that from 40 to 50 percent of organized labor in this Nation is Catholic, and strongly urged them to attend meetings and participate in elections for proper leadership in labor and other fields of fairs. In voting, he said, they should disregard party labels and vote for candidates who support their best views and interests.

Historian of War Dept. Says 227,735 Planes Came from U. S.

Washington, D. C.—The tremendous record scored by American labor and industry in the recent war, despite a late start, was thrown into bold relief by a War Department report showing this Nation poured out nearly half of all the munitions produced by all allies during the war.

The record, compiled by Troyer S. Anderson, historian of the department, showed that in the final year of the war American labor produced 60 percent of the total munitions output, according to the Infantry Journal. American munitions output in the last war year was at a rate of $50,000,000,000 a year—equal to that of all the rest of the world.

From the outset of the war, the report showed, America produced 227,735 planes, including 3,571 very heavy bombers, 30,980 heavy bombers, 16,028 medium bombers, 47,640 light bombers, 67,588 fighters, 22,491 transports, 54,879 trainers and 14,558 others.

Other items produced and channeled into the war effort by American labor included:

Tanks, 87,235, including 1,791 heavy, 56,879 medium and 28,765 light.

Hand and shoulder weapons, 17,255,000, including 6,650,000 carbines, 3,986,000 M1 rifles, 2,001,000 submachine guns, 2,828,000 pistols and revolvers, and 476,000 bazookas.

Artillery, 585,556, including 182,278 aircraft cannon, 46,785 antiaircraft cannon, 35,189 light field pieces, 880 heavy field pieces, 103,894 mortars, and 218,163 rocket launchers.

Self-propelled weapons, 48,816.

Trucks, 2,347,000.

Ammunition, 39,952,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 283,067,000 rounds of field artillery, mortar and rocket ammunition, and 4,560,000 tons of aircraft bombs.

Aviation gasoline, 60,000,000 barrels.

Despite its slow start, and its pitifully low footing of munitions at the start of the war, the Army and Navy, with the unstinted aid of industry and the vast army of American labor which sprang into action, successfully overcame this original handicap and presented to the world the most formidable arsenal it has ever known.

5,000 Upholsterers Who Bolted CIO Enter AFL Group

Chicago.—The Upholsterers International Union (AFL) has agreed to accept applications of 5,000 former members of the CIO who bolted that organization in a mass protest against Communist infiltration. They joined the wooing of 10,000 upholsterers who declined to have any further affiliation with the CIO when Sergio Muster, their union president, resigned in protest against increasing Red influences.

Frank Fenton, International vice president of the AFL, gave out a joint statement with Joseph M. Jacobs, president of the organization, that 20 former CIO locals from all parts of the country had met here and completed details for joining the upholsterers' union.

Representatives of 10 furniture plants in Grand Rapids, Mich., 20 others in Indiana and Pennsylvania and several others from scattered points in the South attended the conference, they said.

10 BILLION EXPORT GOAL SEEN IN SIGHT THIS YEAR

Washington, D. C.—American factories and farms are expected to achieve 1946 the 10 billion dollar export goal set last year as a part of a full employment program. An Export-Import Bank announcement that more than one-half the export goal had been met by the end of May.

The goal for 1946 of 10 million jobs already has been surpassed. A recent civilian production administration report disclosed that including those in the military services there are 65 million employed Americans.

The Export-Import bank analysis shows that the United States supplied more than one-third of the goods received from them in the first half of this year.

VETS' INCOMES LOW

Washington, D. C.—Most former GI's are not receiving incomes sufficient "to properly care for their families," it was indicated by a poll conducted by the American Veterans of World War II. Of the 46 posts which reported, 81 stated their members were receiving inadequate incomes.

HOPE FOR EARLY TAX CUT DIMMED BY SNYDER TALK

Milwaukee, Wis.—Indicating that the administration does not plan for tax reductions before 1947, if then, Treasury Secretary Snyder called for continuance of present tax levels until a Federal budget surplus is achieved.

Maintenance of present levels, he said in an address here, is vital "for some time" to combat inflation. The present tax rate is necessary to achieve a balanced budget and to reduce the national debt, he added.

"You can't have responsibility of the Government, definitely, for the balancing of the budget, for declaring that we are at a balanced budget for 1947 if it possible has not yet been shown, but the administration is doing everything every effort toward this goal.

Latest official budget revenues show a $1,900,000,000 deficit for 1947, obtained only after great potential pruning of agency spending under the amounts permitted by appropriated funds.

MUSICIANS IN N. Y. HOTELS GIVEN 20% PAY INCREASE

New York City.—Musicians in 58 hotels here were granted an increase of 20 percent and other benefits under an agreement reached with hotel managements. The new contract is almost identical with that signed recently by the American Federation of Musicians and night club operators.

Under the new terms, a musician playing for five hours would be raised from $75.45 a week to $90.45, and minimums for other periods would be raised relatively, union officials said.

DEBT TO BE CUT 2 BILLION

Washington, D. C.—Another two billion will be trimmed from the national debt October 1, to bring the retrenchment since last March 1 to 17 billion and 645 million, Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder announced.

The slash will lower the debt to $263,795,000,000, just about what it was a year ago.

Snyder said the saving would be accomplished by each retirement of $2,000,000,000 in maturing short-term securities.

Mediator Named For Pay Dispute In Western Union

Washington, D. C.—Three AFL unions, representing 50,000 Western Union workers, are looking to Noel Fox, special mediator, to settle their dispute with the company over a pay increase. Appointment of Fox was announced after the unions expressed a willingness to continue negotiations with a Federal mediator.

J. A. Payne, representing the AFL unions, said a strike notice would be filed at once, as scheduled, for the unions in event further negotiations should break down. Shortly after his announcement this step was taken.

The workers are seeking wage increases of 16½ cents an hour, except for messengers, who would receive a 10-cent hourly raise.

Payne said the strike notice would be based on company refusal to accept the recommendation of a fact-finding board, and "indignation of employes against wholesale contract violations and bogging down of negotiations."

Watt at Opening Of ILO Session

Montreal.—Robert J. Watt, of the American Federation of Labor, attended the opening session here of the International Labor Organization's twenty-eighth conference.

The meeting, representing 51 nations, opened with an address delivered by the presiding officer that the ILO will enjoy "a close and fruitful" relationship with the United Nations Organization.

The conference is scheduled to run two weeks. Among the more controversial issues is expected to be a Russian government proposal to change the basis of representation with a view to winning the adherence of the Soviet Union which has remained aloof from the ILO since quitting it along with the League of Nations in December 1940.

TEAMSTERS WIN GAINS

Washington, D. C.—AFL Teamsters signed an agreement with employers here allowing concrete ready-mix drivers of a 12-cent hourly increase, a 40-hour, 5-day week, time and a half for work over eight hours a day and all Saturday work and other benefits.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives every announced and authentic pronouncement of matters affecting labor emanating in the executive, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

GET OUT THE VOTE!
ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

100,000 AFL Electricians to Benefit By Terms of New Pension Agreement

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 100,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) will benefit under the terms of an agreement signed by the union officers and officials of the National Electrical Contractors' Association, comprised of more than 2,000 contractors throughout the Nation.

The new contract, signed in the office of Labor Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach, embraced an employee benefit agreement providing for employer contributions to an industry-wide pension fund of the union. Members of the union will contribute 60 cents a month each to the pension fund and this sum will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the employers.

This will provide a retirement benefit of $50 a month to members of the IBEW when they reach 65 years after 20 years of continuous membership in the union. It is the first industry-wide pension agreement in the construction field.

The agreement was signed for the union by International President Ed J. Brown, International Secretary Gus Bugniazet and C. P. Preller, a member of the International Executive Council. Signing for the employers were NECA President Robert W. McCheaney; E. C. Carlson, chairman of the Labor Relations Committee, and Paul M. Geary, executive vice president.

Commenting on the new agreement, the employers' spokesman said:

"There is nothing mysterious about successful employer-employee relations. Even any normal industrial adjustment, it can be solved if employers in good faith have the will to live it in cooperation with the employees acting in good faith with the same will. We have had the greatest problem of employe and employer relations has been abrouded in legalities and high-sounding hocus-pocus.

"The successful relations in the electrical contracting industry here been established over a period of more than a quarter of a century. They rest upon a simple formula if getting the facts, of analyzing the facts, of arriving at the nature of the problem, and then doing something about it jointly, with kindness and reasonableness.

"The long-time relationships between NECA and IBEW are definitive of the single proposition: Cooperation is an art not to be had merely by wishing for it. It is not a magic balm, a panacea, or one that demands intelligence, honesty of purpose and just as constant attention as any other department of the activities of both the union and the employers."

Discussing this statement of the contractors with reporters a short time later, Secretary Schwellenbach said:

"This is the best and most understanding statement concerning employer-employe relations that I have seen since I became Secretary of Labor. I think any employer would do well to study it."

Home Buyers Balk at Inflated Prices As Builders Protest Material Scarcity

Washington, D. C.—A steadily increasing resistance by buyers to highly inflated real estate prices throughout the Nation was revealed by an Associated Press survey in key cities.

This resistance came simultaneously with other surveys, official and unofficial, indicating an oversupply of some materials for construction and a grave undersupply of other equally needed items of construction.

The Commerce Department forecast that supplies of lumber, cast iron soil pipe and plumbing fixtures for housing and nonresidential construction "will remain short during 1947."

On the other hand, the department said, supplies of brick, tile, concrete block, clay sewer pipe, warm air furnaces and cast iron and convector radiation are now nearing demand.

Contractors complained that nails are scarce in many areas, although glass is plentiful, but that they can't sell twenty-fours together with glass. They protested, too, that they could build bathrooms, but can't get bathtubs.

Here's the outlook for 1947, according to a confidential report made by the Civilian Production Administration:

A surplus of 51,100 sinks is to be expected, after housing and other needs are filled. There'll be an embarrassing shortage of 241,000 bathtubs, of 263,000 lavatories, of 231,000 water closet bowls.

Clay sewer pipe will be in surplus by 157,000 tons. But cast iron soil pipe, every bit as necessary, will be short by 56,000 tons.

People who manage to get their homes built will be simultaneously able to keep warm. A surplus of 44,000 warm air furnaces is expected, as well as a surplus of 22.5 million square feet of radiators.

But there will be the preliminary difficulty of an anticipated 1947 "deficit" of 1,341,000,000 board feet of lumber, with the nation as a whole facing a lack of 282,000,000 board feet of flooring. There'll be too little asphalt roofing and siding, by 250,000 square feet.

The brick surplus will become almost monumental; it is expected to rise to 1,121,000,000 next year. The excess of brick available for housing and other needs is reckoned at 256,000,000. And the surplus of the nail monster to 230,000 tons, the Federal experts think.

In the survey of the slump in real estate turnover, attributed to highly inflated prices, only Washington, D. C., showed a definite trend toward a slow down. Reports from other major cities showed a definite drop in the number of sales made because of prices.

Below the real estate official in Baltimore put it:

"People have stopped reaching for the sky in their efforts to buy homes."

AFL Membership Drive Extended Into Southwest

Dallas, Tex.—Plans to expand the AFL's southern membership campaign into the Southwest were completed at a conference here, attended by more than 500 labor leaders, representing chiefly central labor bodies and locals from all parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

Frank P. Fenton, AFL organization director, and George L. Googe, chief of the Southern membership campaign, delivered the main addresses.

The delegates took a strong stand for limitation of the number of foreign American labor on temporary work permits, a practice adopted during the war and held to be no longer necessary.

Announcement was made by Googe of the appointment of J. L. Rhodes as vice chairman and assistant director of the Southern Policy Board, in charge handling of organizational work in the South. Rhodes is a member of the Carpenters Union and an AFL organizer. J. W. Parks, of Beaumont, Tex., another organizer, also was named an assistant director.

These developments came as the Southern Conference of Teamsters implemented its own membership drive by establishing in Atlanta, Ga., a legal research department to keep abreast throughout the South informed on legal issues affecting labor.

The new department is headed by Miss Nora B. Padway, who conducted a similar office on the West Coast for the last four years. Previously Miss Padway was associated in labor law in Milwaukee and Washington, D. C., with Joseph A. Padway, general counsel for the Teamsters and the AFL.

The department will be in charge of collection and presentation of some of the most outstanding labor cases heard by the United States Supreme Court.

The department will serve as a clearing house for legal information and briefing material among lawyers representing the locals. It will have available at all times law review articles on labor matters and assist local counsel in preparation of cases which may develop.

Meanwhile, wide gains by Teamsters throughout the Southwest were reported in negotiation of new contracts.

The City of Galveston granted the General Drivers' Local an across-the-board increase of $20 a month, effective as of April 1.

An NLRB election in Shreveport, La., showed the AFL Teamsters chosen as the collective bargaining agent for employees of the Frost Lumber Industries.

Substantial wage increases and other benefits were granted bakery workers in Lubbock and Houston under the terms of new Teamsters contracts signed. Similar gains were reported in many other centers, it was stated the southern drive has shown marked progress.

BUFFALO PRINTERS WIN SUBSTANTIAL WAGE RAISE

Buffalo.—The AFL International Typographical Union here has won a new wage agreement granting weekly increases of $12 and $13 for printers on all newspapers.

The new contract provides $12 raise for day shift workers and $13 for night shifters, retroactive to August 19. This boost raises printers to $74 for day shifts, $79 for night work and $84 for the "hooker" shift.

24 MILLION YOUNGSTERS IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 24,000,000 American youngsters before a year ago attended the opening school this Fall, it was estimated by the Census Bureau. It predicted that, due to the high birth rate in the early stages of the War, the number will be increased to 26,400,000 within the next year.

Both Party Heads to Debate Issues On 'Labor—USA' Broadcast Oct. 26

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will stage the most spectacular radio debate of the 1946 political campaign on its "Labor-USA" program Oct. 26 over the American Broadcasting Company network.

On this program, Democratic General Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, will speak on "Why American Workers Should Vote for a Democratic Congress" and Carroll B. Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, will speak on "Why American Workers Should Vote for a Republican Congress."

At the conclusion of their talks, AFL President William Green will explain the non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

This probably will be the first and last time during the campaign that the heads of the two major political parties will appear on the same radio program to appeal for labor's support.

Their acceptance of the invitations to take part in the program is, in itself, a high tribute to the non-partisan political policy of the AFL.

This radio program will command Nation-wide interest and attention. Every American worker should make certain to listen. The program will be broadcast from Washington at 6:45 P.M., Eastern Standard Time. Consult your local newspapers to find out when it will be heard in your own community.

Miners Facing Grave Issues At Sessions In Atlantic City

Atlantic City.—The vanguard of the 3,000 delegates to the annual convention of the United Mine Workers (AFL) converged on this city for a session facing grave questions.

Major issues confronting the group include:

1. Means to obtain meat for miners, who require it because of their extremely arduous labor.

2. Present wage scales in the light of increasing costs of living.

3. The political picture, pointed to the necessity of electing a Congress and members of State Legislatures friendly to labor.

4. A complete review of OPA controls and the limitations placed upon them against by Congress.

5. Strong resistance to bureaucratic hamstrings and domination in labor matters.

6. Government ownership of bituminous mines.

An editorial in the United Mine Workers' Journal, official publication of the union, took a strong stand against bureaucratic controls.

"Americans are wearied, bedevilled, bewildered and disgusted with controls that have hung on for a year following the war's end, without any reason whatever, other than the maintenance of political jobs and political power," it said.

"The Miners' Workers' convention will necessarily face opposition in any policy formulated to free American workers from bureaucratic and political control. These controls, which continue to muddle labor relations throughout the Nation, permit to be advantage of the antiunion employers who foment trouble and who are thus given an opportunity to blame every wage and labor controversy on organized labor."

Lie Insists Labor Has Right to Ask 'Big Five' for An Early Agreement

Montreal.—The International Labor Organization has the right to ask the "Big Five" nations to obtain an agreement as quickly as possible, Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, told delegates to the ILO conference here.

American labor is represented at the conference by Robert J. Watt of the American Federation of Labor.

With each of the "Big Five" holding the veto power in the Security Council, the United Nations is powerless to act as referee between them. Agreement, therefore, is absolutely vital and imposes on each of the permanent members of the Security Council an obligation to seek it among themselves, he said.

Mr. Lie had praise for the work of the ILO, which is in process of becoming one of the affiliated organizations of the United Nations. In recent years, he said, the ILO had made a great contribution toward solving wartime labor problems of the free nations and in preparing for peacebased on social justice and social security.

Pursuing its objective as laid down in Article 55 of the United Nations Charter, the present ILO labor standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic progress and development," the United Nations will have to depend to a great extent on other bodies, and in the ILO it has its organization of proved efficiency in which employers and workers as well as Governments are represented, he remarked.

Increased prices and the necessity of higher wages to keep pace with rising living costs "will be checked only by economic means," Edward J. Phelan, newly elected director of the International Labor Office, advised the delegates.

He warned particularly against wage increases, arising from inflationary pressures, which are in effect agreements between employers and workers to increase their money incomes, the real effect of which will be wiped out by price increases, except to the extent that either party can gain by squeezing the receivers of fixed incomes and those who are too weakly organized to share fully in the general advance."

Phelan distinguished between this type of wage rise and "increases arising from increases in productivity and from agreed decisions to increase the share going to labor at the expense of the share going to profit."

"It is essential," he said, "both in equity and in order to maintain the level of demand necessary for full employment, that workers should share in increased productivity the division of increased industrial returns is the proper subject of collective bargaining and wage determination."

N. Y.-Penn. Federations Take Hands-off Stand On Politics

State Federations of Labor in two of the Nation's key States—New York and Pennsylvania—have declined to endorse candidates in the November elections and have asked bidders for the top posts have equally good labor records.

Meeting at Albany, the New York Federation declined to endorse either Governor Thomas E. Dewey or Senator Meade, Republican and Democratic rivals for the governorship. A 25-man Executive Committee of the State AFL, which represents 1,200,000 members, announced its "no endorsement" policy after a four-hour session in Syracuse, the committee said, both candidates have "excellent" labor records.

In Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania Federation declined to endorse either Senator Joseph F. Guffey, Democrat running for a third term, or his Republican opponent, Gov. Edward Martin, on similar grounds, after a three-hour session.

Announcing the decision, President James L. McDevitt said the same policy will apply in gubernatorial, governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of internal affairs.

CONCILIATION SEEN AS KEY TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Washington, D. C.—Conciliation is the key to collective bargaining and Government should not hamstring management disputes John W. Gibson, Assistant Secretary of Labor, told a Conservation and Conciliation corps at a conference here.

SALES OF TOYS THIS YEAR MAY REACH $250,000,000

New York, N. Y.—Despite material shortages, toy production for 1946 will reach $250,000,000 in retail sales, a 35 percent increase over last year, according to a forecast by L. M. Macfarlane, president of the Toy Manufacturers of the U. S. A.

Green Calls for End of U. S. Dictation In Settlement of Labor Disputes

Army and Navy Preparing For Huge Personnel Cuts

Washington, D. C.—New economy moves by the Army and Navy, forced by recent Federal budgetary limitations, threaten wholesale dismissals of both official and civilian employes of both departments.

It was estimated the slashes in personnel may affect the jobs of some 85,000 Army officers and 40,000 Navy civilian employes—mostly shipyard workers. The Army announced regulations which may speed the discharge of half of its officers' corps of approximately 170,000.

The Navy, according to Rear Admiral Frederick G. Crisp, chief of industrial relations, will be forced to drop between 30,000 and 40,000 more civilian employes by the end of the year. It is setting up provisions to recognize seniority in certain cases.

In announcing the program, the Army said that "stringent budgetary limitations" made a reduction in its officer corps "imperative," the move also was prompted by "the desirability of having a completely volunteer officer corps." Induction dates for many officers, including Wacs, will be advanced by six months or more.

The Navy's program, part of its economy plans in a circular letter to all Naval and Marine Corps activities, signed by Under-Secretary John L. Sullivan, The Department, he said, had been "very much disturbed lately by the loss to the Navy of highly skilled mechanics and other valuable employes resulting from the drastic reductions in force that have been necessary on account of lack of appropriations."

YOUR TAXES AND MINE

This is the twelfth of a series of 15 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the AFL Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

Taxes and Consumption

What causes depressions? Most experts are agreed that it is a shortage of purchasing power in the hands of the masses of the people.

That is why labor's struggle for increased wages, without price increases, is so basic a part of the war against depression. The battle is not carried on only on the wage front; it must also be fought on the taxation front, as well.

For there are many taxes that cut purchasing power, and in so doing, bring depression that much closer. Labor must understand these taxes and do its best to get them abolished, or at least reduced.

It is obvious that when a wage earner takes his pay out with him to the market, he buys a good deal less, if many articles have their prices increased by import duties, excise taxes and sales taxes—taxes that he would otherwise spend on more goods is siphoned off by the taxes.

Similarly, when a piece of his pay is sliced off by income taxes, he can buy that much less in the market-place.

A person with high income buys just as much of the goods and services that he needs, regardless of the taxes he pays. But the low income person always finds that he must pass up some of the things he needs.

This means that his goods and services can be sold than if those taxes did not operate to interfere with purchasing by the lower income person. Production is cut, and this in turn, cuts employment. Those who are laid off, shop higher priced goods and must be supported. As this vicious cycle continues, the economy grinds slowly to a stop, and is soon in the grip of depression.

Truman Refuses to Order Removal of Meat Ceilings

Washington, D. C.—Brushing aside pleas of party leaders to remove meat ceilings to avert a threatened famine, man told newsmen he was opposed to such action and predicted that more livestock would be fed to the fattening pen to consumers. He called upon consumers to be patient.

Meat production was much meat during July and August, when controls were suspended, he said, and could get more feed for livestock than they fattened on the ranges reaches the market this fall.

The President made his position clear after two of the most influential members of the Democratic Party, House Majority Leader John McCormack of Boston and Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago, had come out in favor of a 60-day removal of meat price control. Their protests came after widespread complaints from all parts of the Nation against the increasing scarcity of meat.

The fact, he said, President told his news conference, "that the shortage is due in large part to the extraordinarily large slaughter in July and August. Without price control, prices of the relatively short supply of livestock went to unprecedented heights.

"A lot of livestock was rushed to market because of these prices and because of these prices and because it was known that the controls were likely to be removed. Many of these cattle would normally have been fed to heavier weights and come to market during September and October instead of August."

He said that, even after price controls were put back, producers continued to hold back livestock from the market, hoping that "something might happen to give them higher prices later."

"Do you think," a reporter asked, "that the fact that it is cheap feed that will not be removed that there will be a break?"

The President said he was sure of it. In his prepared statement, he said:

"To the extent that livestock is going into the feed lots and being fed to higher grades and better weights, the result will be a greater quantity and better quality in the near future than would be the case if there had been a further continuance of the premiums marketing of livestock . . ."

"Do you think that meat will be substantially available in the near future?" the reporter asked.

He said he thought so. He asked people to be patient and let things settle themselves.

"Can you say something more definite than the 'a break will come in the near future?'"

Mr. Truman said that he could not say anything more definite than that. It depended, he said, on how the cattle came to the market.

He said that the livestock ceilings as determined by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson would be high and would be sufficient to bring forth the maximum production of meat.

CLERICAL HELP SCARCITY INCREASING, STUDY FINDS

New York.—The shortage of clerical help in offices is becoming acute, an American Management Association survey of office conditions disclosed.

The survey of 300 office managers disclosed that executives believe the expected return to the office of former workers who took factory jobs during the war has not materialized. Many new recruits for the office from schools have been hired, and publicity given to wage increases in factories has tended to draw the attention of potential office workers away from clerical work.

1,621,816 NEW CARS SOLD

Detroit.—According to a report from the Automobile Manufacturers' Association, factory sales of American-type passenger automobiles and trucks during the first eight months of this year numbered 1,621,816, compared with 1,840,879 during a similar period in 1941. In this year's output the total number of passenger cars totaled 1,567,065 and 254,751 trucks and coaches.

'KANSAS DAY' PROCLAIMED FOR UNION LABEL SHOW

Kansas City, Kans.—Gov. Andrew F. Schoeppel has issued a proclamation setting aside October 30 as "Kansas Day" at the Union Label exhibition to be held from October 29 to November 3 in St. Louis, Mo.

Governors of other midwestern states similarly have set aside specific days for participation by people of their commonwealths, and special streamers are being planned by Union Label officials for the Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio. I. M. Ornburn, secretary of the AFL Union Label Department and director of the St. Louis show, has urged all international, national, state, central and local labor unions, union label leagues and women's auxiliaries to send representatives to the exhibition.

N. Y. EMPLOYMENT RISES

New York City.—Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner, announced that August employment gains in the State were 2.2 percent, the total number of employes in nonagricultural establishments in August reached an all-time peak for both this year and as against prewar averages. In August the industry's usual production was more than 1,500,000.

AFL Leader Declares Collective Bargaining Is the Best Solution

Chicago.—Government wage domination is outmoded and should be dropped, and the Wage Stabilization Board should be discontinued, AFL President William Green declared in a militant address before the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (AFL), in session here.

"Employers and unions should be given full and complete opportunity to reach agreements through free and unfettered collective bargaining," he told the delegates.

The entire subject of the Government's wage policy is now under study, at the request of President Truman, by a committee of which Mr. Green is a member.

The convention, attended by close to 1,000 delegates, an all-time record, represented more than 131,000 members, an increase of more than 40,000 since the last conclave in 1941.

President Felix H. Knight, who announced his intention to retire at the end of this year, stressed the necessity of a united labor front to put into Congress men who are known to have a thorough understanding of labor's problems.

"We, you and I, elected about the most reactionary Congress we have had in my recollection, and we are all suffering as a result of this today," he said.

"If we don't improve our ways—if we don't get out and follow the slogan 'Select your friends and defeat your enemies,' then God help you in the next session of Congress.

"There are millions and millions of people around the world who have died for the right to vote, and they are still dying and will continue to die for the right to cast their ballots and have someone represent them, and yet we have that right in this country unquestioned."

AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, in a strong plea to the delegates to guard most carefully against foreign-dictated doctrines, told the convention:

"United, we must fight those who preach a new philosophy, a philosophy of statism as against that of trade unionism.

"If we are denied the right to refuse to work or to quit work, then no longer are we free men, and no longer do we have a democracy."

Fred N. Aleo, president of the AFL Railway Employes' Department and a vice president of the Carmen, bluntly told the delegates that the CIO "certainly represents, 100 percent, the Communist Party line, and doesn't represent anybody else."

He cautioned the union members to guard themselves against Red agents who, under cover, are being sent into railroad shops and industrial plants to cause trouble. Their chief purpose, he said, is to discredit union leadership.

William J. Kennedy, chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, explained the Retirement Act and its amendments.

"The men and women who are trying to live on the fixed income which comes to them as railroad annuity payments have no one but you and your fellow railroad workers to carry on the fight," he said.

Kennedy praised the Carmen as pioneers in the movement for a railroad retirement act and called for "adequate social insurance and "a strong social insurance program."

LABOR EDITORS TO MEET IN CHICAGO OCTOBER 4

Chicago.—The first postwar convention of the Eastern Labor Press Conference will be held at the Hotel Chicagoan October 4. The Chicagoan is next to the Morrison Hotel, scene of this year's AFL convention.

The program announced by ELP President Arnold Zander will include an afternoon session opening at 1 p.m., recess at 5 p.m. and an evening session at 7:30.

The Executive Council of the Conference selected Chicago for the convention this year to give the membership an opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the International Labor Press of America, which will meet at the Morrison the following day, and to enable members to attend some sessions of the AFL convention, which will open October 7.

Members who desire hotel reservations are requested to communicate at once with Lewis M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer, Eastern Labor Press Conference, 22 Thirteenth Ave., Newark 3, N. J.

RECORD RADIO OUTPUT

New York City.—The Radio Manufacturers Association announced production of radio receiving sets in August reached an all-time peak for both this year and as against prewar averages. In August the industry's usual production was more than 1,500,000.